**Stewardship Report 2021**

**Israel Field of SDA**

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The COVID-19 pandemic was an unexpected event for all people – even for Adventists who expect the imminent return of Jesus, an event associated with sudden personal and systemic crises of an unprecedented nature. No one expected that local church communities’ diverse life would come to a complete halt within such a short time. The pandemic’s full impact and subsequent lockdown on parishioner’s emotional, social, and spiritual life remain unclear.

Churches must continually adjust to the changing environment, many quickly making the shift to online ministries, all the while striving to maintain connections with members and encourage community amid mask and social distancing.

During our Pastors’ Council, we decided to organize CARE GROUP composed of 10 church members. Each group has a group leader, secretary, and treasurer. They have their morning and evening worship together via zoom meeting. They can invite their non-SDA friends to join them and have a Bible Study. It produces a lot of interests about our fundamental beliefs. Whatever tithes and offerings that care group treasurer collected will be remitted to the local church treasurer.

The monthly remittance in tithes and offerings were greatly affected by this COVID-19 pandemic. When there was lockdown, the remittance was less compared to budget. When the restrictions were over, the remittance registered a big SURPLUS compared to budget. At the end of 2020 financial operation, we have a SURPLUS TITHE of 310,808 shekel, a surplus of **14%** compared to budget.

We encourage our CARE GROUP to continue operating this way as we enter the fiscal year 2021. The COVID-19 pandemic was a constant challenge to the financial operation of every organization around the world. God has a great plan why He allowed this pestilence to prevail despite our marathon of prayers. Trust in the Lord with all our hearts and lean not in our own understanding motivated our financial operation this year. Praise God at the end of June 2021, the remittance registered a SURPLUS TITHE of 135,934 shekel, a SURPLUS of **10%** compared to budget. It is expected that we will repeat the same performance that we experienced last year. It might be more depending upon the blessings of the Lord Jesus because His mercy endures forever.

It is easy to become frustrated and bogged down by this global pandemic. Let us be reminded again and again to “to set our minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth” (Col. 3:2). Shifting our mindset to adapt to a pandemic may not feel encouraging or productive. However, shifting our mindset to things of Heaven will change everything – for good.